

THE STATE



OF WYOMING

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September 24, 2004

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Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A306
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administrative Company
2120 L Street N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

RE: Certification of High Cost Support for Non-Rural Carriers and Eligible
Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) Serving Lines in the Service Area of a Non-Rural
Carrier Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 (CC Docket No. 96-45)

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (WPSC) hereby submits, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313, its annual certification to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 requires that the appropriate state regulatory authority annually certify those non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers serving lines in the service area of a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier, within their jurisdiction, for purposes of receiving federal universal service fund support.

The WPSC has solicited from its jurisdictional non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers and ETCs serving lines in the service area of a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier, their respective signed affidavits that set forth the manner in which federal universal service support funds have been used, and will be used during the applicable 12-month period for which support funds are being requested. The WPSC also requested further accounting data and financial documentation showing that the carriers were using the federal high cost support for its intended purposes. The respective affidavits and additional documentation will be made available to the FCC and /or USAC upon request.

As the appropriate state regulatory authority with jurisdiction to regulate, *inter alia*, the intrastate activities of telecommunications companies serving in Wyoming, the WPSC hereby identifies the

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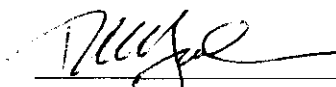
following non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers and ETCs serving lines in the service area of a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier, as being certified to receive federal universal service support funds:

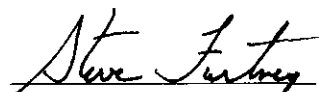
<u>Carrier</u>	<u>Study Area Code</u>
Advanced Communications Technology	519004
Qwest Corporation	515108
Silver Star Communications	519001
Union Telephone Company d/b/a Union Cellular	519905
VCI Company	519006
Western Wireless	519002


Western Wireless has been designated by the FCC as an ETC in certain non-rural service areas within the state of Wyoming. ETC status was granted to Western Wireless by the FCC due to the fact that the WPSC determined that it did not, at that time, have authority to grant ETC status to wireless providers. The WPSC now has the statutory authority to designate wireless providers as ETCs and did so recently in the case of Union Telephone Company d/b/a Union Cellular. The WPSC continues to be without authority to regulate the operations or rates of Western Wireless or Union Cellular. Based on the affidavit and other documentation filed by VCI Company (VCI), it is our understanding that VCI currently utilizes its designation as an ETC to participate in federal low income support programs and that VCI does not receive federal high cost support.

Pursuant to the representations contained in the affidavits submitted by these carriers, and the Commission's review of the additional documentation and support required to be filed by the carriers this year, the Commission certifies that these identified carriers have affirmed they will use the federal universal service support funds only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which support is intended, consistent with section 254(e) of the federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended. This includes High Cost Model support (HCM).

Sincerely


Rob Hurless
Chairman


Steve Furtney
Deputy Chair


Kathleen A. Lewis
Commissioner